

09/15/12

Julie Musselman Oost, please submit the following comments for me for the IPA Draft Plan.

I am concerned about the IPA approving any long term contracts in such a volatile area as renewable resources. I am amazed at how there has been such an explosion of government subsidies for the wind industry when they are only 25% efficient. It also concerns me that I don't see the typical energy companies leading the charge to install wind complexes. It also seems odd to me that most of the initial development of wind complexes in America have been by foreign companies vs. our own. It also concerns me that I have read that out of every \$1,000,000 spent by a wind developer, they get \$330,000 of our tax dollars "free" plus other tax incentives. Why are we tax payers subsidizing this industry vs. the private sector? What is really interesting is that I read about the wind industry stopping development when these tax incentives (1603 funds and PTCs) are in jeopardy of being discontinued. If this industry is being propped up by our tax dollars and tax incentives, both federal and state, than there is something wrong.

I worked in the technology field for a number of years before I retired and one of the main things I learned is, never sign any long term contracts because technology changes dramatically almost yearly. We may suddenly find some more efficient way to create electricity that was never considered before. For example, recently, the gas industry discovered a new way to get natural gas out of the ground that was not available before.

As an agency charged to look for "adequate, reliable, affordable, efficient, and environmentally sustainable electric service at the lowest total cost over time" I urge you to not sign any long term contracts. Let's see what the marketplace provides and let the chips fall where they may.

Thank you.

John Gebhardt
502 N. 28th St.
Quincy, IL 62301